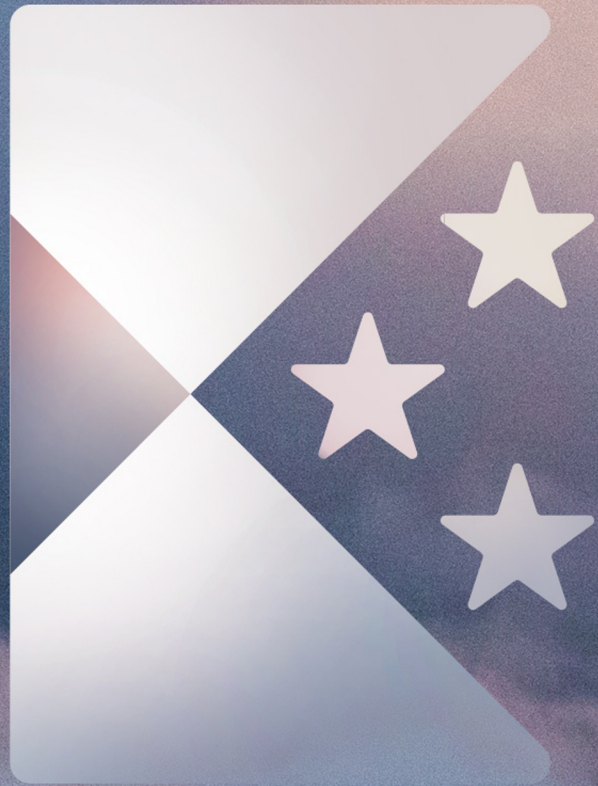


# STATE OF THE CITY

2019 ADDRESS



this is **kingsport**



# BEYOND OUR LIMITS

Every day, Kingsport seeks to reach farther and higher.

## HOMELESSNESS COALITION

Homelessness has been a topic of conversation on the minds of many Kingsport citizens. The problem is not unique to Kingsport, as many cities face these same issues. We need to come together.

Kingsport has been known for partnerships that work. From education to innovation and beyond, our people make it happen.

We need to help those who want to be helped. We need to find better solutions regarding safety for those who wish to break the law.

Here are the next steps for the city to start addressing the multifaceted homelessness issues.

1. Survey existing agencies that provide services.
2. Form homelessness coalition.
3. Develop a comprehensive action plan.

Thank you for your patience as we work diligently towards a balanced approach to protect those in need as well as protect our 54,000 citizens.



## TN BIG SHOTS RETURNS TO MEADOWVIEW

Kingsport was on national display when the World Long Drive Tour returned to town for its final stop on the 2019 tour. Tennessee Big Shots benefiting Niswonger Children's Hospital drew more than 3,000 spectators to see the world's longest hitters compete at Cattails at MeadowView. The event took place over three days, with the two and half hour finals being broadcast live on Golf Channel.



## KINGSPORT AQUATIC CENTER GOES INTERNATIONAL

In June, the Kingsport Aquatic Center partnered with Visit Kingsport to host the International Marine Advanced Technology Education Remote Operated Vehicles competition. The MATE ROV program challenges students to create a robot to complete underwater mission tasks. More than 800 students from 19 countries across the world flocked to the Aquatic Center and MeadowView Convention Center to show off their skills, learn new things, and experience Kingsport's state-of-the-art aquatic facility. The Aquatic Center has also hosted regional MATE ROV competitions, and hopes to be chosen again for the international event in a few years.

## AMERICA'S FAVORITE PASTIME—FOR EVERYONE

Kingsport is making miracles. Thanks to contributions from our community and businesses, fundraising for Miracle Field has nearly reached its goal. The ground was officially broken on October 3, and construction of a special baseball field, pavilion, and all-accessible playground is underway next to Brickyard Park.

The Miracle League removes barriers that keep people with mental and physical disabilities off the baseball field. Once the complex is complete, children and adults of all abilities will be able to enjoy America's favorite pastime at Miracle Field. Search "Kingsport Miracle Field" on Facebook to learn how you can get involved.





# PROUD MOMENTS

Kingsport goes above and beyond every single year.



## LEADER OF THE YEAR

The City of Kingsport's Deputy City Manager Ryan McReynolds recently received the Public Works Leader of the Year award by the Tennessee Chapter of the American Public Works Association.

The Leader of the Year program honors excellence and dedication in public service by recognizing career service achievements of individual public works professionals and officials, from both the public and private sectors. As one of the most prestigious awards presented by the Tennessee chapter of the association, the Leader award is given to honor the public works professional's career, in which the recipient demonstrated excellence in public works, services, and infrastructure in their community through advancement of public works services and technology.



## EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

The National Fire Protection Association named Kingsport Fire Department's Public Education Officer Barry Brickey as the 2019 Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year. This is just one of many awards Brickey has won for his admirable commitment to sharing safety messages. Fire and life safety education is critical to saving lives, and Brickey's work has surely saved many lives over the years.

## KPD RISES TO THE CHALLENGE

The Kingsport Police Department took first place out of 55 entries in the Tennessee Highway Safety Office Annual Law Enforcement Challenge. This innovative program is supported by the Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police and the Tennessee Sheriffs' Association and provides law enforcement agencies with an opportunity to demonstrate how they promote traffic safety initiatives in the communities they serve.

*Officer Kevin Hite with a young citizen*



## LYNN VIEW COMMUNITY CENTER: BUILDING COMMUNITY

The Tennessee Department of Health awarded a \$450,000 grant toward upgrading the Lynn View Community Center. This is the second Project Diabetes Grant Kingsport has received—the first went to Borden Park—to improve wellness initiatives in our community.

The grant will fund several projects over the next three years: improving the track around the football field, building a new playground, and creating a new basketball court. The city recently completed improvements to Lynn View's football stadium, including a new press box and metal bleachers, pictured above.



# CITY HIGHLIGHTS

City departments and partners strive to make Kingsport the best place it can be.



Received budget and audit excellence awards. Only 6% of municipalities receive these prestigious awards.



The Senior Center is one of only seven centers accredited in the state and first in daily attendance.



One of only 19 cities in the nation to hold this honor, reaccredited in 2018.



First and only city in TN designated as Gold Healthier TN Community.



National high-performance award for efficiencies in government.



ACEC Tennessee 2018 Engineering Excellence Award for the Raw Water Intake and Transmission Project.



Received EPA's Safe Drinking Water Director's Award, Peak Performance Award and Operational Excellence Award.



"From the City Desk," a new podcast hosted by City Manager Chris McCartt, is available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and Google Podcasts.

## A Note from City Manager Chris McCartt

*I've been training for this job for 11 years, and it's my honor to lead the city and work with the BMA to make this city successful.*

*Kingsport has a long-standing commitment to working together for a common cause. By working together, our city is able to come up with smart solutions to help better our great city.*

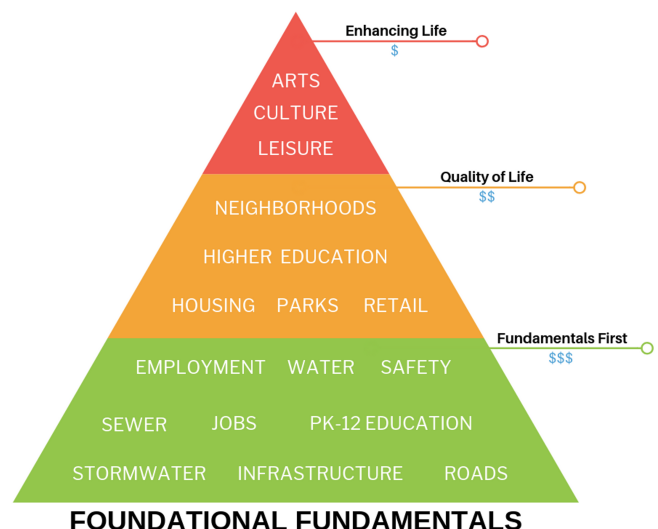
*Keeping citizens informed is as important as any other part of my job. I encourage all of you to be engaged citizens and to use your voice when you have ideas to contribute to the betterment of our community.*

*Thank you,  
Chris*

The city established a hierarchy of needs, which is a decision-making process handled with great care. Using a three-tiered pyramid model, city officials are able to effectively illustrate the hierarchy of needs as it pertains to Kingsport's capital budget and the priorities of maintaining and improving our city.

Kingsport is a financially-healthy organization:

- Tax rate of \$2.06
- AA Rating from S&P Global
- AA2 Rating from Moody's Investor Service
- Debt limit is 6.05%, or 3.95% below city's imposed max and 13.95% below the state's imposed max





# COMMUNITY ENDEAVORS

The Kingsport community comes together to create special things.



This year, the Kingsport Farmers Market partnered with Visit Kingsport on a new farmers market experience: Evening at the Market. Guests shopped from favorite market vendors, enjoyed food trucks, and heard concerts from bluegrass musicians. Hope to see you all back next summer!



*Photo Courtesy of David Cate*

Dobyys-Bennett High School's Science and Technology Center is now open! This center will support scientific inquiry and discovery, foster creativity and problem solving, offer meaningful career opportunities, and give students hands-on experience with technology.

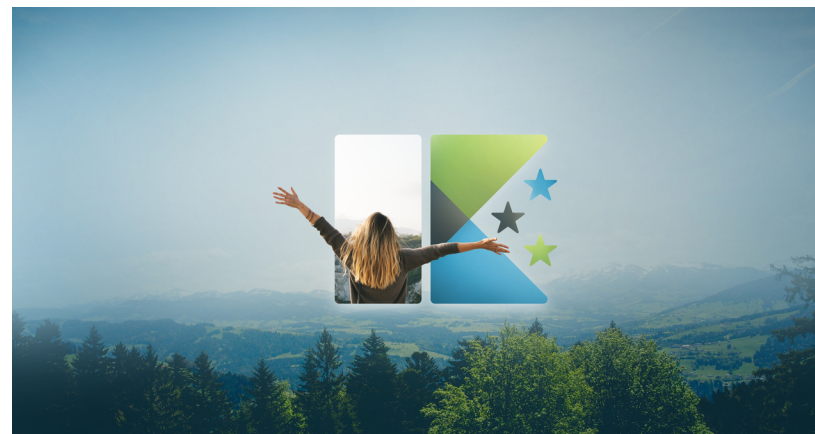


Bays Mountain Park lost two treasured members of its animal family in the last year. Tanasi, a sweet-natured elder of the park's grey wolf pack, had to be given humane rest last December. He came to the park as a pup in 2007, and he captured the hearts of many staff, volunteers and visitors. Eight wolves complete the current pack, including Netar, Tanasi's sister. In late May, the park suffered another loss when its young otter resident, Otto, died after a medical emergency. Otto's story ran in major news outlets in the U.S. and reached countries around the world. The tragedy of his death became a teaching moment for the world about respecting our animal neighbors.



*Photo Courtesy of David Cate*

Through the City of Kingsport, the Tri-Cities Military Affairs Council, the Kingsport Chamber, and many others, "The Sentinel" now stands watch over Veterans Memorial Park. The detailed sculpture by Val Lyle is a life-size soldier in full camouflage uniform, representing every military branch. "The Sentinel" was installed on Veterans Day in 2018.



*This is Kingsport* is a new, collaborative movement from dozens of partners that's designed to showcase the best our city has to offer. Looking for something to do this weekend? Visit [thisiskingsport.com](http://thisiskingsport.com) and find all of Kingsport, just a click away. Show us your favorite Kingsport moments by using the hashtag [#thisiskingsport](https://twitter.com/thisiskingsport) on social media.



# QUALITY OF LIFE

Kingsport is constantly improving and investing in its unique assets.



## BORDEN PARK GETS A NEW LOOK

Through Project Diabetes Grant funding, two entirely new playgrounds were installed at Borden Park that feature slides, swings, and climbing features. New benches and bicycle racks line the park's paved 1-mile walking trail.



## DIVE INTO THE KINGSPORT AQUATIC CENTER

Work began this year on an expansion to the Kingsport Aquatic Center. The new additions will include a covered pavilion and a heated outdoor pool. The new pool will feature an area with hydrotherapy jets, 25-yard lanes for lap swimming, a bench area for water aerobics classes, and a space for water volleyball and basketball. The expansion will be complete for the 2020 Outdoor Water Park season.

## WHAT'S THE BUZZ AT BAYS MOUNTAIN?

Bays Mountain Park opened a new honey bee exhibit this May, handcrafted in-house by the park's exhibits team. The exhibit highlights the importance of bees in our ecosystem and has interactive components, making it unlike any other exhibit in the park's history. Guests can learn all about the honey bee and even get an inside look at a real beehive. The exhibits team is also crafting and installing new wayfinding signage all around the park.



## GET SMART AT CAROUSEL PARK

Carousel Park, the city's newest park, brings even more greenspace to our developing downtown. More than just grass and benches, Carousel Park provides an opportunity for children of all ages and abilities to play and learn in a safe environment. The playground is also certified by Biba, an app for smart devices that turns play spaces into a "smart playground." Parents and kids can scan markers on the playground with the app to play augmented reality games that get children moving, having fun, and making new friends at the park.





# CITY INFRASTRUCTURE

We are dedicated to infrastructure investments and enhancements that create a safe and livable space for residents.



Photo Courtesy of Jay Huron



## BAYS MOUNTAIN PARK & PLANETARIUM

The city is reinvesting in our beloved Bays Mountain Park. Infrastructure improvements include over 100 new parking spaces, improvements to the 100-year-old dam, connecting to city sewer lines, and repaving the entry road.

## PAVE KINGSPORT

Kingsport is improving our roads through the sustainable paving plan. All main roads in Colonial Heights, West Lynn Garden, and Ridgefields have been completed, and paving crews are tackling these areas next: Cooks Valley, Sevier Terrace, and East Lynn Garden.

## KINGSPORT GREENBELT EXPANSION

The east end of the Kingsport Greenbelt is currently being expanded toward Cleek Road and will include an elevated wooden walkway. Eighty percent of this project funding came from a state grant, and Kingsport's favorite walking and biking trail will soon be close to ten miles long.

## NEW KATS FACILITY

The Kingsport Area Transit Service completed the first phase of its new transit facility this year. The facility itself is fully operational and allows for six new routes, including one to Colonial Heights.

## THE INVENTOR CENTER

This year, a makerspace unlike anything Kingsport has ever seen before opened downtown on Shelby Street. The Inventor Center offers artists a space to create and share their skills with others. In addition to being a makerspace, the Inventor Center also offers classes where guests can learn to make things like home decor and jewelry or even how to build a computer.





# INSPIRE. CULTIVATE. IMPACT.

Mission: Provide a student-focused and world-class education that ensures college and career readiness for all students.

## NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED

Dobyns-Bennett High School was named on the 2019 Newsweek **Best High Schools** list, recognized by the Washington Post as a **2018 Most Challenging High School**, and ranked by U.S. News and World Report on the **2018 Top High Schools** list.

## TEAM PLAYERS

The D-B Competitive Marching Band was named **Class AAA National Champions** at the Bands of America Grand National competition. D-B performing arts students include **45 Band All-State** participants, **seven Orchestra All-State** participants, and **five Chorus All-State** participants. The D-B Junior Air Force ROTC was named as a **Unit of Distinction** for the 12th consecutive year. D-B Robotics CyberTribe won its first regional competition and was ranked in the **top 2% of all teams worldwide**. Eight KCS students were named to the STREAMWORKS and Eastman's **"Twenty Under 20."** The D-B boys basketball and baseball teams both ranked **#1 as the winningest programs** in the United States. Twelve D-B student athletes were named as **All-State performers**.

## BY THE NUMBERS

Five students were named **National Merit Semi-finalists** and three were finalists for **Presidential Scholars**. **172** students were named **AP Scholars**, with a total of **844 AP exams** administered. **138** students graduated with distinction, the **most in district history**. **575** students received **Industry Certification** awards. **87** high school students earned a **GPA over 4.0**. D-B's class of 2018 was offered more than **\$15 million in scholarship funds**, the largest total in school history.

